



CoastalPlain_EIS, BLM_AK <blm_ak_coastalplain_eis@blm.gov>

[EXTERNAL] Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program EIS

1 message

Scott Wallace <scott.b.wallace@gmail.com>

Wed, May 23, 2018 at 5:04 PM

To: blm_ak_coastalplain_EIS@blm.gov

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to exploring for oil in the 1002 area on the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska.

Having been to ANWR twice as a journalist to interview people on all sides of the issue, I am convinced that industrial development on the coastal plain inflict permanent and irreparable damage to the environment and the indigenous communities most affected for only a modest, short-term gain. I have also interviewed officials in Washington, including U.S. Fish & Wildlife director and members of Congress. Nothing convinces me that it would be a good idea to push ahead with oil development in this most fragile of ecosystems.

I sympathize with those Inupiat Eskimos who believe that oil development is necessary to continue funding their public services. I also understand the economic need to continue find new oil source to keep the Trans-Alaskan Pipeline operating smoothly.

But sooner or later, the oil will run out and the same problems will still be there after all the oil has been tapped from the coastal plain. It makes much more sense to find other sources of energy and revenue before despoiling this precious landscape, which serves as a potent source of national pride and distinguishes America from other nations who have failed to protect their own wilderness regions.

Transforming this vital habitat and birthing area for many species, including the Porcupine River caribou herd, denning polar bears, and flocks of migratory birds, would represent a permanent stain on our national consciousness and an abdication of our responsibility as stewards of the planet.

Therefore, I urge you to reject this short-sighted, irresponsible proposal to lease the coastal plain for oil development.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Scott Wallace

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Scott Wallace

Associate Professor of Journalism, the University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT

Bestselling author of *The Unconquered: In Search of the Amazon's Last Uncontacted Tribes*